

April 23, 2008

**MOUNT ROYAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN
PRESENTATION OF BRIEFS
OFFICE DE CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE DE MONTREAL
1500 METCALFE ST., 14TH FLOOR
MONTREAL, QUEBEC**

**MANAGEMENT OF THE MOUNTAIN MOUNT ROYAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE
PROPOSALS**

Planning is always of vital importance and good propositions which have merit should be implemented. The fear, however, is that Too Much Bureaucracy may slow down the process, veto it altogether, or lead to Negative public perception.

PROPOSITION 1 : The power and influence of the Quebec cultural minister must be Negated or severely reduced. She is neither an expert nor needed.

We presently have a good balanced management team made up of the following: Helen Fotopulos, Mayor of Le Plateau and municipal executive responsible for Mount Royal has the Credibility and Knowledge, is always nearby to take a "hands on approach" and has Support of Environmental and Botanical Advisors. The 5 mayors submit suggestions or requests concerning the area where their borough touches the mountain. The "Friends of the Mountain" organization will always be there for education, good thought and moral suasion.

What errors have been made due to Poor Management and Cultural Minister Influence in the past?

- 1) The Oratoire St Joseph project which had the support of Les Amis de la Montagne and the previous Cultural Minister Line Beauchamp was an environmental disaster. What transpired was the cutting down of 158 healthy mature trees to make way for infrastructure roads traversing a 4 block treed parkway to access a newly built wide roadway climbing through the northwest face of Mount Royal. It would appear today that all was Not Necessary. However, all those trees that were cut were necessary to filter the air for a Healthy Environment.
- 2) Cemetery on the west side of the mountain builds multi storey "condos for crypts" so wealthy families can interment their loved ones in buildings.
- 3) McGill football stadium encroaches into mountain – permission given to cut trees and plant others.
- 4) Cultural Minister Line Beauchamp exits position and ironically becomes Quebec Environment Minister, in charge of lakes, rivers, mountains and trees!
- 5) A few years previous the city gives a slice of Mount Royal to Royal Victoria Hospital just east of Peel St. mountain entrance.
- 6) Is it over? Is there still more to come whenever an organization developer or institution demands it. Watch closely for developments at Montreal General Hospital. Watch if and when Royal Victoria Hospital or Neurological cease to be and the use of

this most **significant** part of the mountain is in question. As we talk the Villa Maria is being **carved** up for housing and the now empty Marianopolis and land looks awfully inviting adjacent the forested area that has already recently become million dollar housing.

PROPOSITION 2: The Sun Youth Organization supports children and youth to become involved in competitive sports. They wish to install a small scoreboard on the east side of Park Ave away from the mountain, next to the south side of the tennis courts.

This scoreboard will not block the view of the mountain as it will be installed at an angle exposing only the 8" side of the frame when viewed from the mountain or Esplanade Ave. It will be green in color and esthetically pleasing amongst a group of trees to blend in with the surroundings.

Please permit this most esteemed organization permission to install it!

- See attached size and style of scoreboard
- For exact location of installation or to submit documentation for approval please contact: Earl De La Perralle or Sid Stevens

Sun Youth/Jeunesse Au Soleil
4251 Rue St-Urbain
Montreal, Quebec H2W 1V6
Tel : (514)842-6822
Fax: (514)542-5241
www.sunyouthorg.com

* If the governing body for Mount Royal would like to meet the representatives. of Sun Youth "on site" please contact Mr. Earl De La Peralle at the above numbers or email.

PROPOSITION 3: Our different Franco, Anglo and Allo cultures and the rich heritage of each is reflected in our performing arts of theatre, music, dance, etc... Mayor Gerald Tremblay, **our** Man of Culture, wishes to attract Patrons of the Arts from **all** over North Arnerica and the world.

My suggestion is to float a barge on Beaver Lake to be used as a performance stage in the **summer** and **fall** months.

This is no way would effect the environment of the mountain. It would **enhance** the passion of **all** Montrealers to **enjoy** and respect the mountain!

Michael Shafter
Urban Activist
Tel: 514 274-8347 Fax: 514 274-2058
Tel: 800 361-1778 Email: Michael@steamexperts.com

June 16,2005

**Meeting With Representatives Of Office Of Quebec Cultural Minister,
Representative Of The City Of Montreal Planning Dept., and Cedar Crescent
Resident Association Spokesperson Michael Shafter And Our Association City
Planner, Rytis Bulota and Our Economist Louis André Patault.**

Note: Cultural Minister And Kim Fontaine Could Not Attend.

In April/05 **Our City Witnessed** the **Worst Devastation** to our **Environment** in the **Senseless** cutting down of **158 Healthy Mature Trees** at the Oratoire St.Joseph. Many of these trees were between 50 to 100 years old.

Although we wish the Oratoire **Much Success** with their Renovation plan we **Cannot Tolerate** this action. After all, the mountain in the centre of the city is one of the **Last Natural Settings** and **Must Always** be **Protected** from Development. Besides their Aesthetic Beauty, it is these large mature trees that **Filter The Air** and **Reduce City Pollution**.

The **Excuse** that other trees will be planted at a later date is a Poor Unfounded one. Through access to information **concerning** the Oratoire's plans for Phase 1, I have **Witnessed** just how **Small** these trees and shrubs would be. Certainly most **Citizens** of **Montreal** will **Not** be here to witness their **Maturity**.

As well I have been told by Mr. Applebaum that the issuing of **Permits** to **Cut Trees** was Directive from the Quebec Minister of Culture and that the City of Montreal had no choice but to **Obey**. Sorry – You always have a **Choice!** If you believe a **Directive** is so **intrinsicly Flawed** you can **Protest Loudly** and **Publically** which the current administration **Did Not Do**. If the public had learned of the cutting of trees before hand **Surely** they would have requested the Cultural Minister to **Stol**, the **Cutting Before It Began**.

Surely the Oratoire could achieve their **Desired Results** by working within the existing environmental layout and keep the cutting of trees to a bare minimum. Instead they chose to move **traffic** to the West of the Oratoire as stated in their Sept. 2003 Renovation Plan so that "The Service and Supply Vehicles" will be "Well away from the View of Visitors". The result has been the **Senseless Cutting** of Trees in Phase 1!

Please note a copy of Page 6 of the Renovation Plan of the Saint Joseph Oratory of Mount Royal dated Sept. 2003. It was **this** plan which **was shown** and discussed at the Public Consultation Meeting on Nov. 17/2003 and **based** on which we submitted a registered signed **petition** and context **brief** to the City of Montreal and All Public consultation **officers** on Dec.8/2003. We **Never Received A Response** although we **inquired** very often. Nor was the public informed of any changes to the plan thereafter until the trees were **cut** in April 2005.

June 16,2005

The plan and picture shows #9 as the main entrance from Queen Mary continuing south to Connect with the Existing Elevated Road which would Meet Kingston Road at the Higher Elevation to the right of building #3 – (The New Pilgrim's Pavillion).

How, When, Why Did This Road Disappear At A Later Date From The Plan's? If they used this aspect of the plan, nearly no trees or natural parkland would have to be destroyed!

Therefore debate still remains whether Kingston Road was necessary or should have been left natural. It is Not to Late to make a Change.

At the Oratoire meeting May 30/05 we spoke to Mr.Poirier. We simply told him that we could not do anything about Trees that were already Cut except as a Point Of Reference and that we wished no access routes be opened from Cedar Crescent to the Oratoire.

That we could Show and Prove where alternate entrances could be used that would accomplish The Same Result. All alternates had 2 things in common. They were already in place and would not necessitate the cutting of any trees or destruction of any more treed parkland.

As you know, the Tree Parkland is the Beautiful Expanse running from Queen Mary to the south for a 4 Block Stretch to Kingston Road bordering on Cedar Crescent.

Mr. Poirier of the Oratoire said the Miller Ave. "In Case Of Fire Entrance" was to be used to Exit Vehicles Onto Cedar Crescent whenever the Oratoire is Too Busy and in case of Emergency Evacuation. I said you are not going to Dump Your Traffic Onto Our Quiet Residential Area and the Excuse incase of mass Emergency Evacuation has no merit because all must Exit By Foot To The Safest Location And Not By Car. I said obviously by your plans of Sept. 2003 you wanted to make the Sight Of All Vehicles Out Of View Of Visitors and Dump it on the Quiet Residential Area of Cedar Crescent.

On Friday June 3/05 I received a letter which basically said No to my Compromise Proposal. As well they sent out a different letter to all area residents obviously excluding a copy of the letter sent to me.

Our association immediately responded by printing up a Summary letter as well as All Pertinent Documents and Copy Of The Letter Addressed To Myself All Within 2 Hours. We copied 130 binders to submit to our residents. The number 130 Signifies the amount of Parking Spaces the Oratoire will Reduce On Site and which will result in our "Close Proximity Quiet Residential Area" becoming the Dumping Parking Lot for the Oratoire. Their statement that many more parking spaces are available 2 blocks away behind College Notre Dame opposite St.Mary's Hospital on Jean Brillant is Ridiculous!

June 16,2005

Especially when you **consider** that they have publicly stated that visitors have grown by 500,000 a year to 2 million per year – **Where Will They Park?**

ISSUES

1. Stop destroying **magnificent** treed parkland with **infra** structure roads that are not necessary. Re: 4 block area of treed parkland **running** South from **Queen Mary** to **Kingston road** along **Cedar Crescent**.
2. **Do Not Open** a new emergency **Entrance** road at **Miller Ave.** off **Cedar Crescent** (**Incase Of Fire**) and destroy more **parkland** which necessitated the cutting of 13 more healthy mature trees. **Note:** Some of **these** trees **might** have been **within** Public Domaine as per plan F-001 "Plan D'ensemble Coupe & Protection Des Arbres" approved Apr.112005. Plan details "**-10 Arbres A Couper**". But **13 Trees** were cut. On plan it is written "Aucune Coupe Sur Le Domaine Public N'Est Authorisé".

The Best Entrance for this road and hopefully **Acceptable to All** is the road **entering** from **Queen Mary** to the North West of the Oratory and just East and I repeat ----- just East of Cedar Crescent. The entry from **Queen Mary** is presently marked with a sign 4300.

The road is presently in place and would not necessitate the cutting of any additional trees. It is presently a service road leading to Les Petits Chanteurs Du Montreal and the Pavillion XXIII and as it turns out, it is the **Road** that presently the **Oratoire Wishes To Use**. 13 Trees have already been cut down to make an entrance to it from the main entry road for visitors. Yet the entrance from **Queen Mary (4300)** is **only** about 150FT from where the junction will be joining the main entry road to the "4300" road. **Why cut 13 trees when just 100 ft South There Already Exists A Wider Road Presently Used, To Join The 4300 Road.**

For years **past** the Oratoire has had 3 main entrances in case of fire. One obviously was from **Queen Mary** and the other was the extremely large entrance from **Summitt Crescent** in **Westmount**. It is this latter entrance which is directly next to the Oratoire buildings in case of Fire or Emergency. And **thirdly**, **Rue Du Frère André** **connecting** the Oratoire **grounds** to **Cote Des Neiges**. All emergency entrances had **mutual** constants – All presently exist and do not require cutting of any trees or destruction of **natural parkway**.

We Do Not Feel it is Necessary to have **Any Entrance Off Cedar Crescent** even if it is closed off by gates. We are concerned that if these entrances off Cedar Crescent are in place, they could simply be opened in future for any purpose and of course **More Traffic**.

Note: The Miller entrance which was not on the original plans but became incorporated into the plans in 2005 **Without** any **Public Consultation** or **Public Being Informed** in a 'proper & logical manner.

June 16,2005

The Oratoire did not **announce their final plan until after all the trees were cut and Most Certainly You Will Agree That 13 Trees** did not have to be cut for the **Miller Ave. Entrance** and another **13 Trees** did not have to be cut for the **Connecting road From The Main Entrance To The 4300 Road.**

At this time I would like to **make** mention of that which a very very very wise.. ... young man **named Joshua** told me. He is 10 years old and my nephew. He **said** "Uncle why are they **cutting trees when you said it was wrong**". My reply – "they **call this Progress** and they **promise to Replace The Beautiful Trees**". "Uncle that is not what is important" he **said....** "Come to the computer and I will show you what is important that **Trees Stop Pollution They Clean The Air.** Look at **Auntie Marlene** who in the **summer** sometimes wears a mask and uses her spray continuously **because she has Trouble Breathing**". I stood **amazed** and my only reply –"**Joshua** you must be our **Future Politician**".

Thereafter our statements included..... **Our Trees** are the **Focal Point** of **Beauty** reflecting the **Image of Montreal.** As well in these days of billion dollar spending on Hospital's and Health Care, it is trees that **provide Free Pollution Control** by **filtering** the air. Hopefully the Oratoire St.Joseph debate will be a catalyst to protect the natural retreats of the **mountain and surrounding area** from development.

Lastly, as Jean-Yves Bison (Chef De Division – Permis et Inspections) mentioned the City of **Montreal** only issues **permits** for trees over 10 cm . I replied that on Oratoire **St.Joseph property** the **Cultural Minister** must **recognize all trees, bushes and vegetation,** respective of size, and direct exactly on a plan which **ones** she wishes to have removed – not only which **require permits** – because she is the **Protector** of the **Culture** and **Patrimoine** which belongs to everyone, in respective of who **owns** the land.

As well, when a new road is made the **Cultural Minister** must **Designate** it's **Exact Purpose** now and in the future. That **purpose cannot change without Public Consultation and Cultural Minister Declaration.**

Certainly, if anyone from the City of **Montreal Administration, Quebec Government, Oratoire St. Joseph planning Committee, News Media or Special Interest Groups** would like a clear indication of that which we are **trying to EXPLAIN** in this statement we can meet "**ON SITE**" same day as requested by contacting me at:

514-274-8347 Office
1-800-361-1778 Office
514-869-7130 Cell
514-342-3719 Home

and I or other members of our Residence Association will **meet with you.**

**Michael Shafter,
Area Resident
Spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent
Residents Association**

September 6, 2005

Mr. Michael Appelbaum
Mayor CDN/NDG Burrough

Mme Francine Senecal
Cote Des Neiges District Councilor &
Vice President of the Executive Committee in charge of Culture and Heritage

Michael Appelbaum

As you know I am a spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent Residents Association, a member of the Cote Des Neiges NDG Residents Association and a Activist Constituent in the Cote Des Neiges riding.

I have previously registered and submitted a signed petition concerning the Oratoire St. Joseph Renovation to yourself & Mme Senecal for evaluation by the current Executive Council of Montreal concerning the Environmental damage resulting from developing Kingston Rd. the cutting of 158 mainly mature healthy trees and displacement of wildlife. Although you told me I would receive a response and you had empathy for our demands, we never received any response.

Obviously, the trees were cut 1 1/2 years later and the plans were changed drastically without the public been made aware.

Recently we have also witnessed:

1. The **Destruction Of A 4 Block Tree Parkland** stretching from Queen Mary to the south to Kingston road for a **Parking Lot** and **Infrastructure roads.**
2. The environmental destruction of the mountain facing west overlooking this treed parkland. I estimate for the widening of the infrastructure road there is an exposed and destroyed mountain about 40 ft. high which is presently eroding and due to the cutting of the tree roots, possibly another 25 trees will die.
3. The fear our **Quiet residential area** will become a **Parking Lot** and **Traffic Thoroughfare** for the Oratoire. As well that the **Emergency Entrance "Incase Of Fire"** at Miller Ave. and Cedar Crescent would be used for other purposes on a regular basis.

September 6,2005

When I proposed to you , Mr. Appelbaum and your city planner Nicholas Lavoie that you **Do Something Now** to **Prevent Parking** and the **Use Of The Emergency Entrance On A Regular Basis**, I was told **To Wait** until the **Project** is **Finished** and then you would look into the matter. I demanded No – **Do It Now!** – However as I am just an **Owner** of the City of Montreal and you are **My Elected Employee**, you did **Nothing**.

Well, Michael, I am now again demanding you go with your people there **Tomorrow Morning** and see for yourself that **Cedar Crescent** is a **Parking Lot** for **Construction Workers** and that the **Emergency Entrance "Incase of Fire Only"** is **Open Each Day** to **Trucks, Cars** and **Heavy Equipment**.

Again if they need an entrance on a regular basis the **4300 Road Entrance Off Queen Mary** can be used **Perfectly Well Today**.

Question: Will you now make this **Change Tomorrow** and **Correct The Situation** before **Some Child Is Injured** or Cedar Crescent and area becomes the parking lot for the Oratoire St.Joseph.

Mme Senecal

Obviously you have witnessed the enviromental damage at the Oratoire and are aware of the concerns of your constituents. You know that since the trees were cut on Kingston Road in the Spring of 2005 it was only then clear to the constituents of Cote Des Neiges that the plans had been drastically changed without the public having been made aware.

As you perform a dual role as City Councilor for Cote Des Neiges and Vice President of the Executive Council in charge of "Culture & Heritage – I repeat "Culture & Heritage and Lynne Beauchamp is also Quebec Cultural Minister in charge of Culture Heritage Patrimone for the Oratoire , Mountain, Etc. I have the following question.

Is it a **Probable Inference** that your constituents might believe that you were in a **Conflict Of Interest Situation** in which you could not properly **Defend The Rights Of Your Constituents** when you were discussing plans with your Quebec Government counter part Lynne Beauchamp?



Cabinet du maire
et du comité exécutif

Hôtel de ville
275, rue Notre-Dame Est
Montréal (Québec)
H2Y 1C6

NOTE

DESTINATAIRE : Monsieur Micheal Applebaum
Maire d'arrondissement
Arrondissement CDN/NDG

EXPÉDITRICE : Francine Sénécal
Vice-présidente du comité exécutif et
Conseillère municipale du district Côte-des-Neiges

DATE : Le 12 janvier 2004

OBJET : Dépôt d'une pétition en faveur du maintien de la fermeture
de la rue Kingston

Monsieur,

La présente est pour déposer une pétition de quarante-neuf (49) citoyennes et citoyens en faveur du maintien de la fermeture de la rue Kingston, dans le cadre des travaux de réaménagement du site de l'oratoire Saint-Joseph du mont Royal (projet de règlement P.03-150). À cet égard, vous trouverez en annexe ladite pétition.

En tant que conseillère municipale représentant les citoyennes et citoyens du district Côte-des-Neiges, j'appuie leur démarche en vue de préserver la qualité de cet environnement résidentiel. Par ailleurs, cet appui ne remet pas en cause mon intérêt en faveur d'une approbation (avec certains amendements) du projet de règlement portant sur le réaménagement de l'oratoire St-Joseph.

Je recommande donc aux membres du conseil d'arrondissement d'appuyer la demande des citoyennes et citoyens pétitionnaires.

**DOCUMENT DÉPOSÉ PAR MADAME FRANCINE SENÉCAL À L'ASSEMBLÉE
PUBLIQUE DU CONSEIL D'ARRONDISSEMENT DU LUNDI 12 JANVIER 2004.**

p.j.

Montréal

Cabinet du maire
du comité exécutif

Hotel de ville
275, rue Notre-Dame Est
Montréal (Québec)
H2Y 1C6

January 15, 2004

Mr. Michael Shafter
259 Van Horne Avenue
Montréal (Québec)
H2V 1H9

**SUBJECT Petition in favour of maintaining the closing of Kingston
Street**

Mr. Shafter,

Please be informed that your petition regarding the above-mentioned subject was deposited at the January 12th, 2004 Borough Council. As I indicated then, I support your representation in order to preserve the quality of the residential environment of the Côte-des-Neiges District. To that effect, I will also present your petition to a coming public City Council meeting.

Finally, the Office de consultation publique de Montréal will also receive copy of your petition in order to take it into consideration before tabling its report.

You may rest assured, Mr. Shafter, of my empathy and interest in the needs of the residents of the Côte-des-Neiges District.

Sincerely yours,



Francine Senécal
Vice-President of the Executive Committee
Côte-des-Neiges District Councillor

encl.

c.c. Mr. Jean-François Viau
President
Office de consultation publique de Montréal

Statement: From the RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION of CEDAR CRESCENT

PRE-AMBLE TO STATEMENT

The **RESIDENTS** of the seven block area to the west of the St-Joseph Oratory have always appreciated the plans of the Oratory for expansion and have always wished them much **SUCCESS**. The renovation plan is of **VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE EMOTIONAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SPIRIT OF MONTREAL**.

Our concern after public debate (Dec. 03) was over the widening of Kingston Road and the **environmental** impact on trees and animals. As well that no supply and service vehicles and extra traffic should be rerouted through the quiet residential area of Cedar Crescent to enter by Kingston Road or any other opening **TO BE**, off Cedar Crescent

We made a submission to this effect to the Executive Council. However, the public consultation process did not work properly because we **NEVER received a REPLY** and we **NEVER were kept UPDATED** on what was taking place. We as residents are not Civic Administrators and Do Not know how to access information . We rely on our city councillor for this. If we were kept informed we would have known that in June 04 the Cultural Minister of Quebec had given permission for the cutting of trees and changes to the plan. This would have given us an opportunity to reflect on these changes and make an appropriate response.

Then 2 weeks ago the trees started coming down and the community was in a state of SHOCK as we had no prior knowledge that this would take place and **Were Helpless to Stop the Tree Cutting!** However, it is time to **PUT THIS BEHIND US**. We can do little about the trees that have already been cut. We must think positively and keep focused on what we can do **Now!** Towards this end we now say **"We Forgive All Concerned"**., Let this be a learning process. We still feel that the public consultation process can be salvaged even if it requires a little fine tuning.

The residents Association has prepared a statement **Outlining a Solution** which not only would be **Cornpletely Acceptable To Us** but is so **SIMPLE to ACHIEVE**. In effect you did not have to call a Lock Smith – The **Door** was always **Open!**

May 2,2005

STATEMENT

The changed plans **call** for a New Road to be Built off Cedar Crescent facing Miller Ave. It would **again cut** a wide Intrusion thru Natural Parkland **running** for a Great Distance to hook up with a road which presently is there and which presently has a most **suitable Entrance**. The reason now given is "Emergency Entrance in Case of Fire".

The Best Entrance for this road and hopefully **Acceptable to All** is the road entering from **Queen Mary** to the North West of the Oratory and just East and I repeat ----- just East of Cedar Crescent. The entry from **Queen Mary** is presently marked with a sign 4300.

The road is presently in place and would not necessitate the cutting of any additional trees. It is presently a service road leading to Les Petits Chanteurs Du Montreal and the Pavillion XXIII and as **it** turns out, **it is the road** that presently the **Oratoire wishes to use**. Trees have already been cut down to make an entrance to it from the main entry road for visitors. Yet the entrance from **Queen Mary (4300)** is only about 150FT from where the junction will be **joining** the main entry road to the "4300" road.

For years past the Oratoire has had 2 main entrances in case of **fire**. One obviously was from **Queen Mary** and the other was the **extremely** large entrance from **Summitt Crescent** in **Westmount**. It is this latter entrance which is directly next to the Oratoire buildings in case of emergency.

We Do Not Feel it is Necessary to have **any** entrance off Cedar Crescent even if it is closed off by gates. We are concerned that if **these** entrances off Cedar Crescent are in place, they could simply be opened in future for any **purpose**.

If you recall **during** the consultation process 4 or 5 changes were made as to the use of Kingston Road in a short period of time.

I now ask the following question..... would it Not **BE BEST** if the Oratoire's plans are **FULLFILLED** with the **BLESSING** and **ACCEPTANCE OF ALL** concerned?

Please address **these** small changes, Act Positively and **Give Back** to **Your Friends** and **Neighbours** in Our Community their Quiet Residential Area.

With this UNDERSTANDING the St-Joseph Oratory, the City of Montreal, and the Residences of the area will be in **PERFECT HARMONY** and **VISION**.

May 2,2005

Certainly, if anyone from the City of Montreal Administration, Quebec Government, Oratoire St. Joseph planning Committee, News Media or Special Interest Groups would like a clear indication of that which we are trying to **EXPLAIN** in this statement we can meet "**ON SITE**" same day as requested by contacting me at:

514-274-8347 Office
1-800-361-1778 Office
514-869-7130 Cell
514-342-3719 Home

and I or other members of our Residence Association will meet with them.

POST ADDENDUM

To this end I have already had Extensive Meetings with Michael Applebaum – Burrough Mayor at his office as well as on site to explain the **SIMPLICITY** of this **CHANGE**.

I have also been Fortunate to be invited by Pierre Dionne of the Oratoire to discuss the plans. I explained the same to him concerning our desired changes and he mentioned he would discuss it with his superiors.

Hopefully we can all work together to **RESOLVE** this **FINAL** issue.

**Michael Shafter,
Area Resident
Spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent
Residents Association**

May 19, 2005

Statement: From the RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION of CEDAR CRESCENT

A month ago **Our City Witnessed the Worst Devastation** to our **Environment** in the **Senseless** cutting down of **158 Healthy Mature Trees** at the Oratoire St. Joseph. Many of these trees were between 50 to 100 years old.

Although we wish the Oratoire **Much Success** with their Renovation plan we **Cannot Tolerate** this action. After all, the mountain in the centre of the city is one of the **Last Natural Settings** and **Must Always be Protected** from Development. Besides their Aesthetic Beauty, it is these large mature trees that **Filter The Air** and **Reduce City Pollution**.

The **Excuse** that other trees will be planted at a later date is a Poor Unfounded one. Through access to information concerning the Oratoire's plans for Phase 1, I have **Witnessed** just how **Small** these trees and shrubs would be. Certainly most **Citizens of Montreal** will **Not** be here to witness their **Maturity**.

As well I have been told by Mr. Applebaum that the issuing of **Permits to Cut Trees** was Directive from the Quebec Minister of Culture and that the City of Montreal had no choice but to **Obey**. Sorry – You always have a **Choice!** If you believe a **Directive** is so intrinsically **Flawed** you can **Protest Loudly** and **Publically** which the current administration **Did Not Do**.

Surely the Oratoire could achieve their **Desired Results** by working within the existing environmental layout and keep the cutting of trees to a bare minimum. Instead they chose to move traffic to the West of the Oratoire as stated in their Sept. 2003 Renovation Plan so that "The Service and Supply Vehicles" will be "Well away from the View of Visitors". The result has been the **Senseless Cutting** of Trees in Phase 1! We still have no idea how many more trees they wish to cut in Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3.

As spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent Residence Association which encompasses a seven block area to the West of the St. Joseph Oratory, we have now been protesting **Loudly** since the Fall of 2003 to Protect our **Quiet** residential area and **Children** from the perceived result of:

1. Development of Kingston Road and the **Impact on Trees and Animals**.
2. **Traffic and Parking Problems** on Cedar Crescent. The Oratoire plans call for **130 Less** parking spaces **On Site**. As such, cars will park in the closest convenient area which is the residential areas of Cedar Crescent, Stanley Weir, Michel Bibaud, Miller Ave, Rosylin and Queen Mary. The Oratoire's statement that more than 400 spaces are available across the commercial artery of Queen Mary in the **Back** of College Notre Dame

June 2, 2005

Les Amis de la Montagne
Att: Sylvie Guilbault

After our meeting of this morning June 2/2005 you requested documents of signed petition submitted to the Office De Consultation Public on Dec. 8/2003 and subsequently registered mail sent to City of Montreal and Francine Senecal, Vice President of Executive Committee and Cotes Des Neiges District Council to ensure that the Executive Council would review this petition.

After many months of waiting for a reply and many times requesting this from Francine Senecal we never received any response except the letters dated Jan. 12,15,16 – attached.

Only in April, May 2005 did we realize the Cultural Minister of Quebec had authorized the City of Montreal to cut down the trees. The City of Montreal did not **Announce** or **Protest the Cutting of Trees.**

We the members of the Cedar Crescent Residence Association **Did Not See It Coming** and **Could Not Stop The Cutting** once it started. But as you know within 1 week the City of Montreal Administration was stating that such **Would Never Happen Again** because each burrough will have a **Protect the Trees Vegetation Environment Policy!**

As I proved to you today there is no reason to open the Miller Ave. road through the Natural Treed Parkland to the East of Cedar Crescent as an **“Incense of Fire Emergency Entrance”**. Thirteen mature trees have already been cut for this opening. The Oratoire on May 30/05 meeting said it would be **Used** whenever the **Oratoire Traffic** was **Heavy** to **Exit Vehicles Onto Cedar Crescent.** Surely traffic will always be substantial as there will be **130 Less** parking spaces **On Site.** Parking spaces, they said, may be available behind College Notre Dame on the North side of Queen Mary – 2 blocks North across from St.Mary’s Hospital. Who will park 2 blocks away when they can park on quiet Cedar Crescent and adjacent streets just West of the Oratoire ground.

As for **“Fire Entrances”** one could exist at 4300 Queen Mary, one could exist at Rue Des Freres André to the East off Cote Des Neiges, and the **Best Does Exist In Westmount** at the top South of the Oratoire at Summit Crescent. None of these possible entrances would **Require Cutting** of any **Trees** or **Destruction of Treed Parkland.**

June 2, 2005

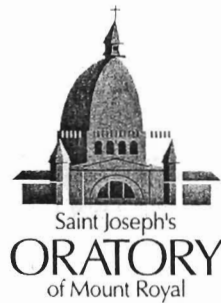
And lastly, the 13 trees that were cut from the main entrance off Queen Mary to construct a road from it to the 4300 road leading to Kingston Road ---- **Why?** ---- When they have **Existing a Perfectly Wide Road** about 100 FT South as I showed you which **Again Would Not Necessitate Any Tree Cutting.**

Please call upon the **Minister of Culture of Quebec** to **Meet With Your People and Mine** as soon as possible to **Keep The Miller Ave. Entrance and Any Other Entrance Off Cedar Crescent in the Future Closed** to our quiet residential area and to be very aware of **Any Trees That The Oratoire Wishes To Cut In The Future.**

Trees of every size, even lilac bushes, are **Public Domain And Must Be Protected.**

Hopefully, this will be a catalyst to protect the natural retreats of the mountain and Surrounding areas from development. **Our Trees** are the **Focal** point of **Beauty** Reflecting the **Image of Montreal.** As well, in these days of billion dollar spending on hospitals and health care, it is trees that provide **Free Pollution Control** by filtering the air.

**Michael Shafter,
Area Resident
Spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent
Residents Association**



100 YEARS
A World
of Love
SINCE 1904

June 3, 2005

SUBJECT: Renovation and site improvements at St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal

Dear Sir or Madam:

Over the next three years St. Joseph's Oratory will be carrying out extensive restoration and site improvement work. We are writing to remind you of the purpose of this project and to keep you informed of the latest developments.

During the hearings held by L'Office de Consultation Publique and by the Heritage Council in November 2003, we presented our objectives:

- To improve services to pilgrims and at visitor reception;
- To beautify this outstanding site of peace and contemplation;
- To increase accessibility and safety;
- To revitalize urban forested areas;
- To increase the dissemination of sacred arts in a cultural and religious atmosphere of peace and respect.

During these hearings, we presented the major initiatives that we planned to undertake at the Sanctuary. The project has been outlined and in development since 2001 in constant collaboration and dialogue with representatives of all levels of government, citizens of Montreal and the borough of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Les Amis de la Montagne, Héritage Montréal and La Société d'histoire de Côte-des-Neiges. We wish to thank those who have shared their concerns and recommendations with us. The photomontage attached to this letter summarizes the majority of the work that we plan to complete by the year 2008.

The master development plan for St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal has been approved by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications of the government of Quebec and by the City of Montreal.

Many people have taken an interest in the project and its development. Over the past year, we have therefore presented information on the project through the media and at forums organized by Les Amis de la Montagne. Information is also available on the Oratory's website at www.saint-joseph.org. As of June 24, a special information kiosk will be made available to the public at the Oratory (in the crypt). The kiosk will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In light of the foregoing, we wish to take this opportunity to inform you of the principal orientations of the renovation and improvement project.

Protection of urban forest

You may have noticed that as part of the renovation work, we have had to cut down 94 trees. The decision to fell trees was taken for several reasons that have been strictly reviewed by qualified experts. Among the reasons were very specific geographical requirements of the work to be done, but above all, the existence of diseased trees and non-indigenous species that are damaging to the overall ecology of Mount Royal. St. Joseph's Oratory obtained all necessary permits from the City of Montreal and authorization from the various governmental authorities before going ahead, all in compliance with Canadian environmental standards.

In addition, as in any project of this nature, work is being carried out under the supervision of a forestry engineer. Our engineer has been advising us for the past 25 years. Because some work will take place at the edges of forested areas, the Oratory has adopted very stringent measures to protect trees, flora and fauna in order to minimize the possible impacts of construction on the urban forest and neighbouring residents.

We wish to point out that by 2006, some 270 trees and 2,850 shrubs will be planted to improve the stock of this fine forest and to replace ailing trees and non-indigenous species.

Parking

Our project also calls for the elimination of 130 parking spaces, to be replaced by green space. Our parking needs have been carefully evaluated by traffic experts. These 130 spaces are only required on five major events during the year (Feast of St. Joseph, Christmas, New Year's Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday). Accordingly, we have reached an agreement with Collège Notre-Dame, situated opposite the Oratory, to allow us to use their parking spaces during these five busiest days of the year. Four hundred parking spaces are thus now available to us. Moreover, for many years the Oratory has, in all its publications, promotions and invitations, encouraged visitors and pilgrims to use public transit.

More green space

Once complete, our renovation project will give the mountain and its citizens considerable additional green space. The asphalted surface area will be reduced from 34,000 m² to 20,500 m², thus increasing green space by over 10,000 m². Citizens will also be able to make greater use of this space thanks to new footpaths that will be laid out. This improvement will obviously create a climate conducive to contemplation, silence and prayer.

Emergency access

The Oratory's main entrance will still be located on Queen Mary Road, but will be moved opposite the exit of Collège Notre-Dame and protected by a traffic light. For emergency situations, the site of St. Joseph's Oratory needs a second access that meets current safety standards.

This is because, in the event of an emergency, heavy demands would be made on the Queen Mary Road entrance by visitors needing to be evacuated. The site improvement project therefore calls for an alternative emergency entrance via Cedar Crescent to be created.

A barrier at the new entrance will restrict access to emergency vehicles. All delivery and service vehicles will use the Queen Mary Road entrance.

June 6, 2005

Mr. Michael Applebaum
Burrough Mayor Cote Des Neiges NDG

As you know my name is Michael Shafter and I am a spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent Residents Association which encompasses the 7 block area to the West of St. Joseph Oratory.

As well as you know in April/05 158 **Mostly Healthy Mature Trees** were cut down of which 94 received tree permits. This left in its **Wake** a **State Of Shock** that not only reverberated throughout the City of Montreal but as well Canada. People were saying how could this happen? - Who is protecting our interests? - And what is going on in Montreal?

You were good enough to call me to your office for an explanation and give me understanding concerning the plan and how to access all Public information for which **I did.**

At this time with Mr. Bisson - Permits Department present you stated:

1. The directive to issue the permits and cut the trees came from the Cultural Minister and you had **No Choice** but to **Obey**. I told you that you always have a **Choice**. You can publicly state to your constituents that you believe this is **Wrong** and you will try to convince the Cultural Minister to make a change.
2. I reminded you that the Executive Council of Montreal through our City Councilor Francine Senecal received a signed petition in the Fall of 2003.... As acknowledged by 3 letters I have. We never received a reply although we requested from Francine Senecal on numerous occasions to find out if and when we would receive one.
3. We were never kept up to date on progress with the plans or changes to the plans during the following 2 years. All was **Secretive** until the **Trees Started Coming Down** and all felt **Betrayed**.

Recently we requested a meeting with the Oratoire, Francine Senecal and yourself. One was made a month later on May 30/05. All the time, **Time Was Running Out**. You unfortunately could not attend but I am sure that Gilles Berger and Francine Senecal kept you au courant with what transpired.

We simply stated that we could not do anything about **Trees** that were already **Cut** except as a **Point Of Reference** that we wished to make a compromise settlement with the Oratoire that would see no access routes opened from Cedar Crescent to the Oratoire.

June 6, 2005

That we could **Show** and **Prove** where alternate entrances could be used that would accomplish **The Same Result**. All alternates had 2 things in common. They were already in place and would not necessitate the cutting of any trees or destruction of any more treed parkland.

As you know, the Tree Parkland is the beautiful expanse running from Queen Mary to the south for a 4 block stretch to Kingston Road bordering on Cedar Crescent.

Mr. Poirier of the Oratoire said the Miller Ave. "**In Case Of Fire Entrance**" was to be used to exit vehicles onto Cedar Crescent whenever the Oratoire is too busy and in case of emergency evacuation. I said you are not going to **Dump Your Traffic Onto Our Quiet Residential Area** and the **Excuse** incase of mass **Emergency Evacuation** has no merit because all must **Exit By Foot To The Safest Location And Not By Car**. I said obviously by your plans of Sept. 2003 you wanted to make the **Sight Of All Vehicles Out Of View Of Visitors** and **Dump** it on the Quiet Residential Area of Cedar Crescent.

On Friday I received a letter which basically said **No** to my **Compromise Proposal**. As well they sent out a different letter to all area residents obviously excluding a copy of the letter sent to me.

Our association immediately responded by printing up a **Summary** letter as well as **All Pertinent Documents** and **Copy Of The Letter Addressed To Myself All Within 2 Hours**. We copied **130** binders to submit to our residents. The number 130 signifies the amount of parking spaces the Oratoire will **Reduce On Site** and which will result in our "**Close Proximity Quiet Residential Area**" becoming the **Dumping Parking Lot** for the Oratoire. Their statement that many more parking spaces are available 2 blocks away behind College Notre Dame opposite St.Mary's Hospital on Jean Brillant is **Ridiculous!**

Especially when you consider that they have publicly stated that visitors have grown by 500,000 a year to 2 million per year - **Where Will They Park?**

Michael I believe you are a **Good Politician** and **Mayor** who **Makes Decisions** with **Integrity and Honesty**. If you average 8 out of 10 correct decisions you are doing pretty well. But Michael a **Great Politician** is one who admits when he may be in error and goes back to try to **Correct The Situation**.

June 6, 2005

Michael I want you to be a **Great Politician**. Please say **Yes** to the following:

1. Arrange a meeting with the Cultural Minister, our Association and **Yourself** – On site – So I can prove and show that which I am stating.
2. Since we are running out of time and the Excavators are coming in shortly, Help us to place an injunction only on the Miller Ave. entrance. The Oratoire can commence preparation in other areas.

My question - Are you prepared **To Do This For Us** and the **Citizens Of Montreal** who have been **Kept In The Dark For All Too Long**.

The Oratoire did not announce their final plan until after all the trees were cut and **Most Certainly You Will Agree That 13 Trees** did not have to be cut for the **Miller Ave. Entrance** and another **13 Trees** did not have to be cut for the **Connecting road From The Main Entrance To The 4300 Road**.

At this time I would like to make mention of that which a very very very wise..... young man named Joshua told me. He is 10 years old and my nephew. He said Uncle why are they cutting trees when you said it was wrong. My reply – they call this **Progress** and they promise to **Replace The Beautiful Trees**. Uncle that is not what is important he said.... Come to the computer and I will show you what is important that **Trees Stop Pollution They Clean The Air**. Look at Auntie Marlene who in the summer sometimes wears a mask and uses her spray continuously because she has **Trouble Breathing**. I stood amazed and my only reply – **Joshua** you must be our **Future Politician**.

Thereafter our statements included..... **Our Trees** are the **Focal Point of Beauty** reflecting the **Image of Montreal**. As well in these days of billion dollar spending on Hospital's and Health Care, it is trees that provide **Free Pollution Control** by filtering the air.

If I may continue 2 last points:

1. As you come down Camillien Houde Parkway towards Cote Des Neiges on the North side 17 trees were cut in the last few months. Please get a maintenance crew up there tomorrow and either cut the tree stump below the ground or remove completely so that visitors to Montreal do not **Perceive** the **City As Dyeing**.
2. Mayor Helen Fotopoulos in the Le Plateau area has passed by laws concerning the **Most Strict** tree protection, vegetation and parkland **Guidelines** on the island of Montreal. Certainly she is a Politician with a remarkable **Track Record** and **Sense Of Conviction** to make sure it is followed through.

June 6, 2005

It is hoped Michael you will put forward as soon as possible our Burrough Tree and Environment Policy and make good reference of the Fotopoulos guidelines.

And as always we will be Watching and Anticipating Good things to Come.

Certainly, if anyone from the City of Montreal Administration, Quebec Government, Oratoire St. Joseph planning Committee, News Media or Special Interest Groups would like a clear indication of that which we are trying to **EXPLAIN** in this statement we can meet **"ON SITE"** same day as requested by contacting me at:

514-274-8347 Office

1-800-361-1778 Office

514-869-7130 Cell

514-342-3719 Home

and I or other members of our Residence Association will meet with you.

**Michael Shafter,
Area Resident
Spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent
Residents Association**

Legally
Transmitted
By Fax

To / À:
Attn: Kim Fontaine
Co. / Cie: Dept. of Cultural Minister of Quebec
Tel: 873-2137
Fax: 418-380-2311

From / De:
Michael Shafter
Tel: 514-274-8347
Fax: 514-274-2058
Toll Free: 1-800-361-1778
Email: info@steamexperts.com

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply

Date: June 7, 2005

Page: 1 of / de 22

22 PAGES

As requested attached are statements from the Cedar Crescent Residents Association Submissions to the Oratoire concerning meeting on May 30, 2005 and letters of reply to myself and a different letter of reply to the Residents of the area.

As well a statement presented yesterday to Mayor Michael Applebaum at the monthly meeting as well other relevant statements.

Sincerely,



**Michael Shafter,
Area Resident
Spokesperson for the Cedar Crescent
Residents Association**